

86
MEMOIRS
OF
MISS HANNAH BALL,
OF HIGH WYCOMBE, IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

EXTRACTED FROM HER
DIARY OF THIRTY YEARS EXPERIENCE,
IN WHICH
THE DEVICES OF SATAN ARE LAID OPEN,
THE GRACIOUS DEALINGS OF GOD WITH HER SOUL,
AND HIS ALL-SUFFICIENT GRACE,
ARE EXEMPLIFIED IN
HER USEFUL LIFE AND HAPPY DEATH.

BY JOSEPH COLE,
MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL.

The Righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.
Be ye followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
ST. PAUL.

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Ann. 1766.



DEDICATED

TO HER SISTER,

MISS NANCY BALL.

DEAR MADAM,

IT is now twelve years since I travelled in the Oxford circuit. I then had the opportunity of seeing and conversing occasionally, for two years, with the Author of these Memoirs; and, am happy to say, I ever found her *The Uniform Christian*. Her conversation on religious subjects was, to me, always attended with a Divine favour.

The only prevailing motive to comply with your request, in extracting the most profitable parts of your sister's papers, was the advantages which many of the tempted followers of CHRIST may derive, by reading what she had passed through, in this wilderness of tears, before she reached "the saints secure abode,"

"Where not a wave of trouble rolls

"Across her peaceful breast."

If there be any persons I feel more for than others, they are those who have been long exercised with deep, inward sorrows, arising from many trials and

temptations; and then, like the three Hebrew Children, march out of the fire, with the superior advantage of freedom from their spiritual bonds.

In revising these papers, I have been under the necessity of making some alterations in words and sentences; and to render the whole as useful as I was capable, have occasionally interspersed remarks; but, at the same time, I have *most scrupulously avoided altering her sense*; nor have I, even in one instance, changed a phrase, but where it was necessary to render it more intelligible.

If this small tribute, to the memory of that burning and shining light, should meet your and her friends' approbation, and through the Divine Blessing contribute further usefulness, in serving our generation, the making them public, will give you,

Dear Madam,

To participate in one of the most heartfelt joys
that can gladden the soul of your

Respectful Friend and Brother,

In the bonds of Jesus,

JOSEPH COLE.

BRISTOL,

March 12, 1796.

THE MOTIVES

*That induced Miss BALL to make some Remarks on her
Daily Walk with GOD, were—*

1. That the goodness of God to his creatures might be manifested, in communicating a constant supply of grace to persevere in, and give the victory over temptations and trials.

2. She thought it contributed much to her closer walking with God.

3. In times of temptation, it was profitable to review past deliverances, which the Lord had wrought for her.

4. For the encouragement of others to press on till they obtain all the mind of Christ, and walk in constant communion with God.

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THE time of my birth was March 13, 1733; blessed with parents that possessed Agar's wish, "nor with riches crowned, or poverty depressed."

A family of twelve children, together with many misfortunes, increased those difficulties which unavoidably attend the bringing up a numerous offspring. All the children, I think, were blessed with a tolerable share of good natural understanding; but this could not equal the advantages of a liberal education.

The want of resignation to moderate circumstances and situation, very frequently betrayed evident marks that pride was my besetting sin. This principle was so manifest, that it proved a source of grief to my mother, and to myself frequent and great mortification to little purpose: "restraint I could not brook." I now found, as pride increased, my love to and respect for my mother daily abated; but this I cautiously concealed.

When five years old I was sent to Uxbridge on a visit to my uncle, where I had every indulgence to feed my vanity. I refused answering to the call of Hannah; but to Miss I was all attention. Experience confirms the truth of the wise man's assertion; that pride, with folly, is bound up in the hearts of children.

Blessed are those parents and guardians, who, in their care and instruction of children, mark, with an attentive eye, this dangerous passion, and with proper temper apply both reason and revelation to counteract that *deadly disease*. Undue, as well as untimed, correction and reproof often proves ineffectual, and defeats the purpose for which it was designed. Fathers provoke not your children to wrath, lest they be discouraged.

On my return from Uxbridge, being asked if I knew a very near relation; I denied. This untruth was frequently charged home upon my conscience for many years after. When nine years old, I went to reside with an uncle in High Wycomb; but various humiliating occurrences made a remove from thence desirable. Here it was I first received some serious impressions, and felt a desire for prayer: my frequent request was, Lord teach me to pray, and make me a great mother in Israel. Although a stranger at that time to the import of my prayer; yet, even then, I have reason to believe the power of the Lord rested upon me—but like the morning cloud it soon passed away. By my aunt's request I retired every evening to read and pray; after a short time it became a pleasing exercise. From my aunt's I went to live with a cousin: the care of his family occupied the most of my time for five years. I then availed myself of some justifiable reasons to return to my friends.

In the year 1769 I went to live with my brother. By the death of his wife, the care of four children devolved to me. With much pleasure I have frequently reflected on my unwearied application to promote their every interest; but, after all my labours, I could not divest myself of fear, that my toil would be repaid with a light sheaf: yet I continued to sow in hope. I had frequent and great distress in my own mind, arising from temptations following my evil tempers.

In the year 1762, the LORD greatly alarmed my fears, in the solemn hour of midnight, by a sudden and violent storm of thunder and lightning. Conscience now roared a loud onset to my trembling soul; and, like the appalled Israelites, I cried, let not God speak any more, lest I die. JEHOVAH, who of old time commanded the light to shine out of darkness, shone into my heart: the dungeon flamed with light. I trembled at death, like a creditor severe, and thought the *last trumpet* was sounding. Scripture declarations came with evidence to my heart, "*if ye die in your sins, ye must perish*;" "*without holiness, no man shall see the Lord*." I was crushed beneath the weight of my sins, and the displeasure of an angry God. Unable to bear the face of the Judge of quick and dead, my thoughts and attention were turned to implore the friendship of the rocks and mountains, to cover me from the wrath of the LAMB. Horribly caught and compassed round, in the midnight of my grief and fear; Mercy! Divine Mercy! came to my relief, and graciously disposed me to resign myself up into the hands of the LORD: the boisterous waves of horror and fear subsided at the voice of the Prince of Peace; and there was a great calm! Divine Peace flowed into my soul, and I found rest from all my fears! This tran-

quillity of mind continued for some time. During several days illness, patience and peace of mind sweetly supported me to bear, without murmuring, the afflictions of my body. I was a stranger to the *nature* of that work which God had wrought in my heart: I promised the LORD, if he would restore me to health, I would, by Divine assistance, *seek* true religion: but, ah! how apt are we to forget vows made under the rod of chastisement! Twelve months elapsed before my resolutions were reduced to practice; and, even then, it was with the utmost reluctance, and studied caution, I withdrew from my gay companions.

So deceitful and ensnaring are the pleasures of youth, that it requires an exertion of omnipotent grace to dissolve the fascinating charm.

I now began to turn my attention to, and sought the company of the most serious professors of religion. In these interviews I was much disappointed; and entreated the LORD for direction to a people that worshipped Him in spirit and in truth. A people, known by the name of Methodists, were brought to my mind. With a displacency I replied, LORD, I cannot go with them. So great was my aversion to that despised people, I once thought I would as soon go to hell as unite with the followers of John Wesley.

I found prayer, reading, and meditation, rendered useful; observing also the generality of men were pleasing themselves more than God, determined my resolutions in favour of a serious life.

About the latter end of the year 1764, I applied closer than ever to reading the Bible. One day, whilst reading Moses' Prayer, divine light was in a greater degree communicated than I had ever known before.

When on a visit to a relation, I first saw Mr. Thomas Walsh's Sermons. They were rendered indeed quickening and searching to my soul. From *this time*, I longed to hear a Methodist preacher. If their sermons were so powerful, I thought, what must their preaching be! On a visit to an acquaintance, my sister said, the last time she came that way, she found peace with God. I was exceedingly surprised at this relation, and began to doubt the validity of my religion.

Sometime after this, Mr. Wesley came to Wycomb. I had now a conflict between desire and aversion. Desire at length so far prevailed, that though I did not attend the preaching at night, yet I went at five in the morning. I was struck with the venerable appearance of Mr. Wesley; but more deeply affected with the words of his text, which were, *Matt. xv. 28.* "O woman, great is thy faith; be it unto thee even as thou wilt."

A few days after, Mr. Hanson preached his Farewel Sermon. A remark which he made in his discourse, on the knowledge of salvation by the remission of sins, was from that time never erased from my mind. I now clearly saw the necessity of the remission of sins; nor could I ever find rest in my soul till I received that blessing.

The next preacher that came was Mr. D——. His discourses were rendered very profitable to me, as they clearly opened the way of salvation through faith in CHRIST JESUS. The Saviour of miserable, apostate man, appeared in my eyes altogether lovely. It was now the hope of salvation, like a fountain of living waters, sprung up in my soul. I was enabled to receive CHRIST in my heart, by loving faith. Instantly I felt as if a tongue of fire sat upon my heart, and healing the wound that sin had made. I

was indeed filled with joy unspeakable and full of glory. This abundant consolation continued for a week, with few intervals of temptation from the powers of darkness.

The Sabbath following, I found great darkness of mind all the day. In conversation with my sister P. she said I lived below my privilege: this afforded comfort, for I was afraid of living above it. Tuesday, I awoke in surprise, with the thought God had left me. This was immediately followed with, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation." I received this as an admonition from the Lord, being in expectation of some approaching trial; but this day the evidences of divine faith were so clear and strong, that all doubt of my acceptance with God was removed, *and I knew my sins were forgiven.* With humble and guiltless shame, I sunk down at the feet of my kind Deliverer, and in the fulness of my heart laboured to express my thankfulness.

I felt myself poor and mean in my own eyes; I had done nothing to merit such mercy; *the work was of God*; I praised JEHOVAH that it was of grace.

"In the Heavenly Lamb

"Thrice happy I am,

"And my heart doth rejoice at the sound of his name."

I now found strong confidence in God that he would watch over and preserve me through this howling wilderness. Close meetings were made exceedingly profitable: this social conversation on the work of God in the souls of *unfeigned believers*, is calculated to strengthen and confirm sincere souls in the grace and love of Jesus; for when they find other Christians exercised with similar crosses, trials, and difficulties, and happily delivered out of them,

it is a confirming testimony to the divine record :
“ *There is no temptation that hath taken you, but such as
“ is common to man; and in every temptation he will
“ make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*”

In all complex difficulties, I have ever found it good to make known my request to God in prayer. Those exercises I have passed through, have rendered me, I hope, more useful to others.

“ The well-sung woes may soothe their pensive ghost :

“ They best can paint them who have felt them most.”

I began my Diary in the year 1766, at which time I was in great exercise of mind, from solicitations and inducements to change my condition in life; but the dispensations of Providence ran across my expectations; and the event has fully evinced, that the sacrifice I was then enabled to make has been recompensed by a hundred-fold reward in this life. After three months close exercise, I was brought by divine assistance to Resignation's Shrine, with, “ *Father, thy will be done.*” From that time, I found power to give the LORD all my heart. These exercises made me feel tenderly, ever after, for all young beginners in the ways of salvation.

I have frequently thought it a very considerable service done the church of CHRIST, when experienced ministers have laid open the fascinating temptations incident to young persons; and experienced professors, by gaining first their affection and confidence, and by facts, have given proof of attachment to their real interests, have thereby preserved many that otherwise might have been borne down by youthful desires, which would have made their return very difficult, and the event exceedingly hazardous.

"Look gently down, Almighty Grace,
"Prison me round in thine embrace;
"Pity the heart that would be thine,
"And let thy power my love confine."

As the Christian's life is made up of crosses as well as comforts, trials and temptations with peace and consolation, Miss B. was called sometimes to drink deep in the cup of sorrow, which was generally succeeded by joy and love. Those remarkable exercises and deliverances she generally noted in her Diary. As these will give by far the best idea of her experience, we shall occasionally insert the most useful parts of them as we go along.

January 15, 1767. Having lost a valuable correspondent, she says, Now let me have more communion with God. Who will dare to interrupt this communion? Often may I hear from my LORD, and often he shall hear from me. LORD, thou knowest what a week of trials and temptations I have passed through: be thou my helper in every trouble. I praise thee, O LORD! for keeping me from despair. It has been the hour and power of darkness, but thou hast again refreshed my soul.

Sept. 4. For some days past, I have had a close succession of trials, with many fears I should not endure to the end; but now the LORD is again lifting up my head, by fresh discoveries of JESUS' love, and my faith is greatly strengthened.

Sept. 29. In the morning I was much tempted, but was enabled by divine assistance to resist, and the tempter fled. "Our joys are joys of conquest, not "of rest." Adding prayer to fasting I found useful, even in the midst of close assaults from Satan.

Dec. 14. Yesterday the LORD made me to possess the iniquities of my youth; to-day, my soul is revived with the love of JESUS.

1768, Feb. 26. My soul has this day been fed with heavenly food. I long to be with my LORD ; but, O my soul ! wait thou his divine appointment ; ever breathing, Father, thy will be done. This earth has lost all its charms to me : I only live to do thy will, O my Father and Lord, my Husband, Friend, and Brother ! What words are these ? The LORD of heaven and earth mine ! yea, all he is and has is mine ! All I am is too small a return for such profusion of love.

March 26. I was much tempted to pride of various sorts ; but hope of being more than conqueror came to my relief.

June 3. This day three years I found peace with GOD ; since which time I have not given up my interest in JESUS ; *no, not for a moment*. In all my trials and temptations, “ he has kept me to prove, “ his utmost salvation, his fulness of love.” The LORD shews me my weakness and helplessness. Save me, O LORD ! by grace ; save me from all dependence—but thyself.

We are happy to find, that while the exercises and temptations which mark a very considerable part of Miss Ball's experience, served to reduce her to a heart-felt sense of her own weakness and unworthiness, they proved seasonable occasions for magnifying the grace and power of JESUS, in making way for her to march out of all her difficulties, more than conqueror through Him that loved her.

Aug. 15. The breathing language of my soul is, I long for a more intimate acquaintance with GOD ; I cannot be satisfied to follow him at a distance. If he hides his face, I have no joyful hours. The following lines are expressive of the spiritual poverty I feel :

"My soul, a dry and barren place,
 "Gasps for the cooling streams of grace;
 "O might they thro' the desert roll
 "Refreshment to my gasping soul.
 "Jesus, I thirst for thee, *not thine*,
 "I want the Well of Life Divine;
 "The Well of Life Divine thou art,
 "Spring up eternal in my heart."

Aug. 17. I long to be useful the remainder of my days below. My soul ardently desires in prayer, that my sister Nancy might obtain the rest of the people of God.

— 20. Having experienced a gracious deliverance and enlargement of heart to praise and love God, I feel the greatest pity, and softest sympathy, for all my fellow creatures, particularly those who are living only on the gay and airy pleasures of this world. O when will they experience joys that are real—joys that spring from God!

— 26. The temptations of Satan are like fiery darts; but the language of my heart is, Make me humble, always disposed to lie at the feet of Jesus. Temptations, and the light of grace, daily convince me I have need of a constant supply of divine aid against my unwearied adversary.

From her invariable attention to the apostolic precept, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling," some of her readers may incline to fear that her views of the plan of salvation were not clear or just. The following remark, it is hoped, will obviate such groundless fears.

Sept. 1. I see, O LORD! if I am saved, it is of *mere grace and favour*. O let this sink deep into my heart; I love to feel it, I long to feel it constantly, that I might fly to thee for shelter.

There certainly is a great resemblance in the experience of all the children of God; and those who

are long exercised in the Christian warfare, pass through such inward conflicts of mind, as can only be conceived by those who have felt the same.

Sept. 3. She says, My soul seems as if the fruit of last year were gathered, and my heart is like the ground that wants breaking up, that it might receive fresh seed.

Miss B. profited much by the talents of the different preachers which she frequently heard. Her remark is, The word of God, from the same mouth *frequently delivered*, has not the same effect as when delivered by a fresh one, at least to me.

Under a great sense of her own weakness at this time, she expressed the breathings of her soul thus: Who can describe the frailty of human nature? But thou, O LORD! knowest it altogether. My silence speaketh unto thee. Save, and endue my soul with strength to stand in thy house for ever. Make me of a quick understanding in thy fear, O LORD. Make me a comfort to thy children, in lifting up the hands of such as hang down.

— 9. I bless God for shewing me the necessity of constantly seeking him with as much earnestness as if I had not obtained his favour. My soul feels a calm repose in the merits of CHRIST for salvation; at the same time intreating his assistance to walk in the narrow path that leads to eternal life.

“JESUS, my all, to heaven is gone,

“He whom I fix my hopes upon:

“His track I see, and I’ll pursue

“The narrow way till him I view.”

The work of the Holy Spirit in the souls of believers agrees with the rule of righteousness revealed in God’s Word; and when the Spirit reveals his own work, it is attended with light and joy.

Sept. 24. My soul, praise the LORD; speak good of his name, who enables me to rejoice in temptation. Now I know by experience what it is to rejoice evermore, and in every thing to give thanks. I believe my soul has been in this state some time, but my light was not so clear as it now is. My soul, continue thou to seek the LORD with all thy strength; thou wilt have no grace to spare in the article of death. LORD, help me to live to thy glory; thou hast said, All power in heaven and earth is given to me.

— 27. This day I was tempted to vain glory; but the LORD kindly interposed with his Spirit's standard, when the enemy came in as a flood.

In a day of sore trial and temptation, she was led to say, Who knoweth the value of faith? None but those who exercise it to their own profit, and the Redeemer's glory.

My soul of late has been much stirred up for a spirit of prayer. I cried to the LORD, and it was applied to my mind, "*Ask what you will, and it shall be done.*"

I was drawn out to pray for a particular friend, and for several of the preachers. My soul is like a place where waters are constantly running. LORD! preserve me from self-dependence. I most sensibly feel, if the LORD were to withhold his grace, I should soon become altogether unholy; but I trust he will supply my every want.

— 30. Another month is now ended. What have I gained? I think more universal love. I think my love is increased to Dissenters. If we differ in opinion, LORD, unite us in affection; let our hearts be one with thee; let us be united in CHRIST, the living head; our fruit be holiness, and our end everlasting life!

It is exceedingly common for young converts to measure all their faith by ecstasy, and hastily to conclude every degree of abatement in joy, or comfort, is a diminution of faith; but time, and the experience of God's faithfulness and sufficiency, had taught our friend to gain by the patience of hope.

Consolations to my soul seem at present to be suspended; and yet I can say, Father, thy will be done; only save me from sin, and I will praise thee, though thy comforts be withdrawn.

Nov. 16. How tenderly does my Heavenly Father watch over, and proportion strength to my day! when I need much, it is given; so I have no lack. O may I always be kept in a seeking frame of mind!

— 25. I see the need of constant watchfulness, that nothing may come between me and CHRIST: I am sometimes obliged to retire from company, and call in fresh strength against my formidable foe.

— 30. The grace of God excites in all true believers an holy emulation for the humble mind which shone so eminently in the life of CHRIST, and which is here exemplified in this part of Miss B—'s experience. I want to feel deeper humility; I want humility enough to bear prosperity, and not be high-minded. I do not feel pride; but I wish to feel lowliness grounded in my heart. On examination, I find more self-contempt, more of the mind of CHRIST, and more of that love that suffereth long, and is kind.

"Thee let me now through faith behold,

"And by reflection shine,

"Till nature's dross is turn'd to gold,

"And I am all divine,"

Dec. 1, 1768. Happy in the love of JESUS, I long to be with him my soul loves. My heart is disengaged and free; no creature holds me here. How

poor their joys, whose hearts are tied to earthly things!

Dec. 23. Weary with labour, and weak with fasting, I feel a longing for that blissful rest which remains for the people of God.

Jan. 1, 1769. My soul is in a measure delivered from a violent temptation that has closely assaulted me. Oh! what is past experience, but faded joys, if thou, O LORD, hide thy face from me! Shine on thine own work, that I may praise thee, and exhort others to do the same.

— 9. My soul is heavily burthened: Keep me, gracious LORD, and never let me go; assist me to cast all my care on thee.

Feb. 4. In retirement, this day, I found a fresh supply of grace. The following words were no less pleasing than frequent to my mind:

“My life of mercies crown

“With a triumphant end.”

— 5. My short-comings to me are truly humbling; but JEHOVAH JESUS pardoneth all without upbraiding. Every moment I feel my need of the atoning blood of CHRIST; and, praised be his name! he ever liveth to make intercession for me, or I could not appear with one offering.

Miss B. had great activity of soul and firmness of mind: Steadily attached to truth and sincerity, she abhorred dissimulation; the prevaricator, as well as the loiterer, felt her faithful reproofs. In some cases, her manner carried with it the appearance of sharpness. This was named to her by a faithful friend, and she ingenuously remarks: I leave upon record, that I never have been willingly sharp; but when I thought softer means would not have effected the end. If I have judged wrong, I pray the LORD to

forgive, and teach me better. It has been my invariable rule, not to talk of people's faults behind their backs; but if I spoke of them at all, I preferred doing it to them in person.

Feb. 24. Either poverty or riches expose to great temptations. Agar's wife has been mine, even when I knew not God. Hitherto hath the Lord granted my request. Some of my friends think I have a very pleasant abode; but I can willingly leave it to be in glory.

March 2. I this day visited three poor sailors in prison; each of them deprived of a limb, yet apparently ignorant of the Scriptures, and strangers to the God of their mercies.

— 3. My soul was much refreshed by the simple relation which a poor woman gave me of her justification. I remembered praying with her and her mother, about eight months before. The purport of my prayer was, that CHRIST would reveal himself to them. Who knows but this was the answer to that prayer? After many days the seed may appear.

April 9. I feel I need the ever-blessed Redeemer in all his offices; no less as a King to save, than a Priest to atone, or a Prophet to teach: I need him to continue every blessing he has already bestowed. For more than a year past, I have been enabled to give God my whole heart. I still feel the necessity of earnestly seeking the Lord as much as ever; and the more so, as I never saw my weakness as I have done since I entered into this liberty of the children of God. Conscious that I come short in my duty, yet I believe it is more from a *defect in understanding than in love*.

— 12. One thing I hope ever to remember, always to approach the foot-stool of my Lord as a

child would to a parent, believing and receiving what he so willingly bestows. I want establishing grace to fix me in the LORD's house for ever; the full assurance of hope; such a confidence of receiving all the promises of JEHOVAH as excludes all doubt.

April 30. Of late the LORD has variously tried me; I have drank of the bitter cup; my will has been crossed, and disappointment blasted all my favourite schemes; but I can resign all to Him, whose every act pure blessing is—whose path's un sullied light.

May 7. I rejoice in the company of GOD's children. Any other conversation than that which directly or indirectly leads to GOD, is to me flat and insipid.

— 13. How pleasing the prospect of death! Now his terrors are removed, with joyful anticipation I reflect on the awful summons, Arise, ye dead, and come to judgment.

There is a propriety of conduct which ought to be observed by professors of Christianity in every state and station of life, from the minister of the gospel to the meanest servant. Where the true interest of CHRIST lies near the hearts of his disciples, this line of conduct will be preserved; and while it reflects a lustre on Christians and Christianity, it proves more effectual to the conviction of infidels than the most conclusive reasonings.

Miss B. seems to have had a just sense of this, as appears by her thus expressing her views: The cry of my heart is for wisdom, and a supply of grace, that all my conduct may ornament the gospel of CHRIST. I would not verge to any extreme. Wishing to observe a proper respect to superiors, and cautiously to guard against every thing that bears marks of severity and stiffened distance to inferiors;

I would equally shun that common familiarity which never fails to make one too cheap.

May 16. The grace of God I find superior to my present trials.

"Suffering faith shall brighter glow,

"As gold when in the furnace tried."

Ever may I be taught to frame all my life and actions according to the will and word of God, believing the copy ought to resemble the original. I value other books, only as they help me to understand the Scriptures.

I doubt not but we are liable to all kinds of temptation while here in a state of trial; but when our inward enemies are cast out, Satan can but tempt. By watching unto prayer we shall not be overcome. One enemy within the walls, is worse than an army without.

Frequently I find *that* in my chamber, which others lose in wandering about, and are strangers to set times of retirement. Praised be the Lord, my path is not hid: "he marks the road my feet should go, and is my constant guide." The having it in my power to make another happy, has, this evening been a source of joy to me. Oh! may I increase in this grace also.

June 3. One year more hath the LORD assisted me to walk in his love. Though exceedingly tempted to day, I count it all joy, as it greatly profits my soul.

— 25. I have just read, that spiritual desertions may be of more use to some souls, than *love, joy, and peace*. To an ungrateful mind they may, that can never receive favours without *forgetting to give all the glory to God*; but, to a thankful mind, it is quite the reverse,

July 7. LORD, I am grievously tempted. My head is pained, my body weary, my faith tried, and patience exercised; undertake for me: I give myself to thee, who art able to save. The following words were seasonably applied; *in patience possess your soul: let patience have its perfect work.*

— 8. I find joy and peace in believing; bless the LORD, O my soul! I have been much strengthened in prayer for myself and others.

— 18. Many painful thoughts have been crowding into my mind; but, as they were not invited, or welcome, I believe they are not my sin, but my cross. Lord help me to bear, and do thy will, and to the end endure. I see the command is very broad, which makes the blood of CHRIST exceedingly precious.

August 5. My soul, this day, has enjoyed a solid peace, which temptations, of various sorts, have not been able to move. I want streams of heavenly grace to water my soul, which is like a barren desert, unless it be blessed of the LORD. I am often tempted to question the being of a God; and what is remarkable, this temptation is most frequent when I enjoy the *witnessing spirit of love* in my heart.

O Lord! give me strength to bear whatever thou art pleased, in thy wise providence, to permit: let me be furnished with the whole armour of God, that I may stand in the evil day, and, having done, all may stand.

Unless humility keeps pace with the whole of our inward and outward conduct, the deceitful heart will unite with Satan, that endless foe of God and Man, to divide the glory with him; who hath said, *my glory will I not give unto another!* After much freedom of conversation, with some of the children of God on this subject, she was sorely tempted to think she had done wrong, and was constrained to cry,

“ Oh! may I be kept humble at the feet of Jesus!
 “ All I do is from thy grace; shall I, therefore, be
 “ proud, for being *more indebted* to the LORD than
 “ others? No, LORD forbid it!”

September 15. “ The witnessing spirit, both of my justification and sanctification, is satisfactory to myself, although I have many temptations to rob me of comfort; but my confidence is in God.

— 16. “ My soul is kept in peace; yet I feel a constant need of watching against every desire, but what leads to God. Oh! how easy is it to bring those desires back which were once cast out; but I need not; God is able to keep me from falling! I feel power to look to Jesus, and see the tempter fly.

— 20. “ Sudden and impetuous, like the storming of a castle, are the strong assaults of Satan, to make me relinquish my faith; and, to conclude, I have deceived myself, that I have too exalted thoughts of what the LORD hath done for me. I cast myself at the feet of my LORD in prayer: he graciously interposed, rebuked the adversary, and my soul escaped out of that conflict with strength renewed.

“ Like Moses' bush I mount the higher,

“ And flourish unconsumed in fire.”

October 29. The doctrines of Christian holiness, were the peculiar delight of Miss Ball's soul; and, from a conviction of the word, and by the spirit of JEHOVAH, she unweariedly pursued after the image of her LORD. What, but Divine Power, and Divine Light, could enable her to say, “ I feel my reason
 “ and my affections bearing an even balance; the
 “ praise of which I freely give to the LORD: for
 “ to him alone it is due, who, of a stone, hath raised
 “ up a daughter to Abraham?”

"Jesus my soul takes hold on thee,
 "I Arm me with thy spirit's might,
 "Humbly assured of victory,
 "I underneath thy banner fight."

November 9. The want of memory to retain sermons, has been a very great affliction to many of the children of God; and, no doubt, Satan has taken an occasion to impute it to a defect in grace. Miss B. complains of this infirmity very frequently in her writings; on which she remarks: "My general rule is, to apply the word as the preacher goes on with his subject. Sometimes I have thought God permits me to be thus tried, that I might live on him alone, and experience that the *means of Grace* are *nothing, without the God of means.*"

— 10. "This is a fast day to my body, but a feast day to my soul. Oh! how sweet the love of JESUS.

"Words are too mean to speak his worth;
 "Too mean to set the Saviour forth."

"Happily preserved in the midst of worldly company, with an unusual freedom of spirit and communion with God, who is my keeper and preserver from sin. All praise, all glory be to him!

"My natural disposition is to please; but, from the purest principles, I dare not practice, what, I know, would give pleasure to many. Were I less sensible of peoples' pleasures and displeasures, I might pass on my way much easier to the Heavenly Canaan." It is exceedingly difficult, at all times, to preserve the golden mean; on the one hand, to avoid that sour leaven, which makes all religion to consist in stern looks, exactness of apparel, with a stiffened, reserved, unsocial carriage to saints and sinners; and equally to guard against, and fear more than Death, temporising with the spirit of the World.

"We live in an age, when the scandal of the cross is nearly ceased; not that the men of the world are changed from their principles and maxims; but professors have been deceived by their courtesy, and, with too great propriety, it may be said of many, are you become like us?"

Miss B. could conceive of nothing capable of effecting an entire change from her natural propensities, but the GRACE OF GOD. "Naturally of strong passions, excessively fond of the customs and fashions of the world, and all things pleasing to the eye, I have frequently thought persons of a dull, phlegmatic composition, have not half the temptations to struggle with that others have whose souls are active as fire.

November 18. "Notwithstanding the rest I enjoy in the love of GOD, yet I thirst and pant for more: when I awake after thy likeness, O LORD, I shall be satisfied! Save me, O LORD, from surrounding foes: in myself I am all weakness; but in the LORD I am strong! I remark, whenever I aim to walk closer with GOD, Satan is more than ordinary active in tempting."

Were I only to select the brighter parts of Miss B.'s experience, instead of encouraging, it might prove a stumbling block to weak believers; but I purpose making as impartial an extract as possible, in justice to her memory, and the Redeemer's interest.

December 4. "I this day felt a distant, unloving spirit, haunting my soul; but even this gives a fresh gust to prayer.

"I long to walk closer with GOD, and lovingly to all my fellow creatures. But the greatest difficulty, I find, is, with my own household.

Dec. 7. "I am frequently tempted aboutt he work of sanctification; but I cannot give it up. The LORD grant I never may! The moments of time pass swiftly away: this is no affliction to me, but rather a joy. "Each day salvation nearer is, than "when I first believed."

— 16. "Two years ago, this night, the LORD liberated my soul from inbred foes; and, I trust, I have thus far held fast my confidence in God, although variously tempted. The fruit of the spirit has been increasing; peace fills every faculty of my soul, and the LORD honours me with sweet communion with himself.

— 18. "Never was I more conscious, that salvation is not of works, lest any man should boast. If I am eternally saved, it will be of *mere grace*, and I rejoice to be saved in the way of the LORD's appointing. Who can describe the joy arising from faith in CHRIST, and a mind fixed on God. Sights, or favours from friends, have the same effect; they drive me nearer to the LORD, and I find him to be *all in all* to my soul.

— 21. "This has been a day of weeping and trial; but I trust it shall work together for my good. I want my heart to be filled with love and Christian courage.

— 25. "A day of painful and gloomy temptations.

"But love can burst the shades of death,

"And bear me from the clouds beneath

"To everlasting day."

"There is a vast difference between the cautious hypocrite and the genuine Christian: the former is an utter stranger to himself; the latter tries the whole of his inward and outward conduct, by the

word of TRUTH, as in the presence of JEHOVAH: "He that doeth truth cometh to the light," John, iii. 21: the insincere dissolves, when tried, in the fire of temptation: the truly gracious soul comes forth as burnished gold; the fire befriends him by refining his dross, and loosing his bands. Daniel iii. 26."

Miss B.'s studious care, in the whole of her conduct, was to approve herself to God.

1770, January 9. "My faith is much tried by temptation, but I feel a comfort in God's omniscience. There is not a secret *thought that I would hide from him, if it were in my power.*

— 11. "Having been sorely oppressed by temptation, I long to drink of the streams that make glad the city of God. Surely I may style myself a tempted follower of the LAMB. Oh! may Lamb-like patience arm my breast: I longed for a cessation of arms; but that word was seasonably applied, *my grace is sufficient for thee!* May I ever prove its sufficiency, by keeping me from entering into temptation.

February 24. "The beauties of holiness, which I have not yet attained, were, in a lively and striking manner, presented to the eye of Faith. I have need of more humility, this only can preserve me from dejection in soul-adversity, and self-importance in prosperity.

— 25. "The love of Jesus is still the prevailing principle in my soul, a powerful inducement to prayer and watchfulness.

— 31. "Troublesome thoughts, like teasing flies, are sometimes permitted to exercise my patience; but as they are my cross, it is proper that patience should have its perfect work, both as to the

matter and manner my LORD sees meet to appoint or suffer.

“ In tracing the footsteps of my great Exemplar, I always find matter for humiliation. I am thankful to God for preserving me more than two years from sinful indulgences. Many temptations have offered ; but, in the strength of JEHOVAH, I have overcome. As the light of God’s gracious spirit, with his word, clearly discovers the way I should walk in ; by the assistance of Divine Grace, the most pleasing snares laid for my feet have been escaped, and hitherto I have borne the cross, going on my way rejoicing.

March 6. “ There is a beauty in humility I cannot describe. I long to be a pattern of all holiness, filled with the fruits of the spirit, which shone so bright in my Divine Master.

— 8. “ In a time of ease and peace, it is suggested, I shall see war no more ; but I now feel the want of a fresh supply of grace, to prevent my casting away my shield. Truly the Christian’s life is a warfare, and the potent foes we have to combat, sufficiently prove the need there is of the *whole armour of God*. In the midst of varied and complex temptations, none have been permitted to enter my heart. I sometimes feel a void, which none can fill but the Deity, and the prospect of future good gives present ease—they shall be filled.

“ I rest upon thy word, the promise is for me.”

“ How various are the works of God in grace as well as nature ! My soul of late has been exceedingly oppressed with trouble, yet at times scarce able to support under the weight of divine love. This is truly a refining furnace.

"Perhaps one of the greatest rewards JEHOVAH can confer on his servants here, is, to prepare them, by painful trials, for further enjoyment of himself.—

"Every branch in me that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."

"I feel a greater deadness to earthly objects, even when comparatively neglected by the good and wise. This affords me more leisure to seek my happiness alone in GOD. I am satisfied he is an unchangeable good.

"The suspension of divine consolation is truly painful; it feels like the first ripe fruit gathered. Many things offer to make me discontented in my station of life, yet still I cry,

"None but CHRIST to me be given—

"None but CHRIST in earth or heaven."

"I esteem it a favour to feel the insufficiency of past experience, whilst my soul cries after God, and is athirst for an increase of all the fruits of the Spirit. I have been much exercised of late with temptations to doubt the being of GOD; but I exercise myself more in prayer than reasoning on that subject.

March 24. "Thirty-six years of my life are this day passed over, and with Jacob I may say, Few and evil have my days been. Near thirty years spent in vanity and folly; but, Oh! what a day of rest does my soul now enjoy! words are too mean to set it forth. The Scripture is food indeed to my soul; and I dread more a famine of this, than of the bread that perisheth.

"Pride is a many-headed monster, and sometimes appears in the guise of humility; be-clouding the mind with Satan's temptations, to warp the understanding, and give a wrong bias to the judgment, unfavourable to GOD's work in the soul, which, if

yielded to, would interrupt and prevent communion with God; but thanks be to thee, my blessed Lord, for the light which maketh manifest this device, and strength whereby I am enabled to look to my Great Instructor in all things.

“ I would not act but in his light,

“ Nor would I walk but in his might,

“ Nor think a thought, nor speak a word, without my Lord.”

“ Ministers of the gospel ought to be highly esteemed for their works’ sake. If any are so unfortunate as to turn aside, or grow weary before their work is done, I mourn in secret, and think I could willingly die rather than that a preacher of the gospel should fall from the grace of God.

“ For near a year past, Satan has variously tried to set me against a very near and intimate friend, with whom I live; but now, I trust, it is all done away. Why should my eye be evil because God is good? Satan, like man in his lapsed estate, has sought out many inventions; time and experience are the school for the gaining knowledge of his devices.

“ Till now I have never experienced a temptation to be weary of a dependent state; but this was the sin of fallen angels. I sunk down with shame and reverence at the feet of Jesus, and prayed for humility, deep, grounded humility. Sweet peace and joy filled my soul. Evermore may I live dependent on Jesus. All our blessings derived by faith are like Isaac’s sons of laughter.

June 3. “ A day much to be remembered, just five years since the adorable Spirit took possession of my heart, and sweetly subjected my neck to the Redeemer’s yoke; and when I have (without my own inventions) put on his burthen alone, it has always been light.

"After hearing a profitable sermon this evening, the adversary, like a lion, was ready to devour me. On my return home, I was strongly tempted to anger. I betook me to the weapon of prayer; but notwithstanding I looked to the LORD. "I am not clear I have not sustained some loss, O how tender and delicate is the Spirit of God, always susceptible of the slightest touch of evil consented to in the mind!

"In the public means, I was exceedingly exercised to doubt if the Scriptures were of God, and to think them only the invention of men." This was a blow at the root of her hope. The next step would have been to give up all that the Spirit had wrought in her soul. As experience is founded on the word of God, so is the word founded on him that made all things; and made peace for a rebellious world by the blood of his cross.

"My species up in arms, not one exempt,

"Yet for the foulest of the soul he died."

"I am glad it is written, He that believeth shall not make haste. Satan's devices are sometimes detected by the hurry he strives to raise in my mind. I have frequent and painful conflicts with that unwearied foe: the battle of the warrior is at times with confused noise; but still I find greater is he that is with me, than all the powers of hell; and every fresh victory my LORD insures, is to me a further confirmation of his all-sufficient grace.

"I desire to spend the remaining part of my life in a closer walking with God, and in labours of love to my fellow-creatures—feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, instructing a few of the rising generation in the principles of religion, and, in every

possible way I am capable, ministering to them that shall be heirs of salvation."

"Mr. T. Eden's Sermons have been rendered not only instructive, but very profitable; his private conversation no less so to me and others.

"Trials and crosses are now become more bearable. O what love do I see in the various dealings of God with my soul, removing me from one furnace to another, not as a capricious father, that chastiseth a child, but that I may be a partaker of his holiness. I am now better acquainted than ever with the words of Isaiah, "*A man of sorrows, and acquainted with griefs.*"

"There are two ways by which our Heavenly Father removes our attachment to this present world: 1st, By mixing pain with all our comforts, that we may be led to seek comfort in him alone, with whom there is fulness of joy; 2dly, Admitting us, by faith, to look within the veil, and giving us foretastes of those pleasures which flow at his right hand for evermore. When the soul experiences this indubitable seal, this earnest of the purchased possession, the scale strongly preponderates in favour of "*departing to be with CHRIST, which is far better.*"

"Where the saints in his presence receive

"Their full and eternal reward;

"In JESUS, in heaven, they live,

"They reign in the smile of their LORD.

"The flame of angelical love

"Is kindled at JESUS's face,

"And all their enjoyment above

"Consists in the rapturous gaze.

"There is a strange fascinating power in the creature to draw the soul from, or divide the heart with the LORD. This kind of temptation is conquered by flight: I am no where safe but in the cleft of the

rock. With perfect submission I pray, but I long to trim my wings, and fly to yonder blessed abode. I am strongly solicited by the rulers of darkness to think I am a mere enthusiast in all I do; but a more dangerous temptation, perhaps, is that of letting out my affections too far to the creature.

Aug. 24. "I have profited much under the ministry of Mr. Henderson and Mr. Rhodes. Mr. R. has been a laborious man, and rendered useful in this circuit. He has been truly upright in all things. May his usefulness continue and abound."

It is not unfrequent for Christians of a considerable standing in the church, to anticipate happiness or misery, in prospect of a future, but untried situation; the former is realised by patient continuance in well doing; the latter is inevitable to the discontented.

For some years Miss B. lived with a large family, the principal care of which devolved upon her. This, with an apparent disrelish in them to sacred things, made her breathe a wish (but with submission to the Divine will) for a remove. "Nothing but vanity surrounds me, and my ears are from day to day accosted with scarce any thing higher than this world. I am in hopes my deliverance draws near, that the LORD will provide me some little peaceful home. I wait to know his will, that I may not run before, but follow Providence. O that my head were waters, and mine eyes fountains of tears, that I might weep day and night for this unconverted family!

"Notwithstanding the comfort of the Divine Spirit, which is the inseparable companion of a life of faith, and devotedness to God, it is evident Miss B. had, as a true disciple of her LORD, frequently to conflict with the rulers of the darkness of this world.

Sep. 8. "To-day the mighty power of God preserved me from sinking both in body and mind, having met with close disappointments. My soul sustained it, but my flesh abhorred to bear *the affliction of the mind.*

"Just as I was fainting under my pressure, it was very seasonably applied, The LORD will lay no more upon me than he will enable me to bear. I remembered JEHOVAH's faithfulness, and was strengthened.

— 12. "The confined circle in which by far the greater part of our sex move, furnishes us with daily proofs, that a very considerable part of domestic life is passed over agreeably, or very painfully, even with servants, as they are adequate to, agreeable in, and manifest a complacency or displacency in serving their superiors. After nine years faithful servitude to me and all in this family, it is with great reluctance I part with my pious-maid, Molly Rockall. I hope her exemplary piety will render her usefulness more extensive, and her station equally ornamental."

The whole of a Christian's life is made up of many parts: Past consolations prepare for future trials; and the more dependent we are on the arm of Omnipotence, the less shall we be disposed to lean on the bruised reed of mortal man.

— 24. "There is great need of prayer and patience to sustain my present afflictions of body and mind: my faith is variously exercised; the LORD appears to be fulfilling that promise, "I will shew you what great things you shall suffer for my sake." Let this cup be removed, or, O my God! let thy grace be sufficient for me. My heart hath said,

"No cross, no suffering I decline,

"Only let all my heart be thine."

The deep and invariable regard Miss B. had to the whole gospel of CHRIST, manifested itself in her exemplary conduct. She was not dextrous in picking and culling the promises, and leaving the precepts; no, the commands of her LORD were the very joy of her soul. For many years she used to set apart every Friday as a day of fasting and prayer, while her body could bear it; on which she expresses herself thus:

1771, Jan. 12. "This day I found great nearness to and communion with God. I still find fasting rendered a blessed mean to my soul, a mean almost out of use with professors in general of all descriptions; but is this any reason it should be neglected? no, not by me, for I never use it, but my soul is brought nearer to God."

Whatever Miss B. thought conducive to her spiritual prosperity, the glory of God, or the interest of religion, was by her never declined: her fortitude and resolution in these respects were equalled by few; she deemed suffering only as a mean, having experienced its salutary effects in the hands of her LORD; it was to her profitable.

How much easier would the draught of life go down, and the waters of Mara change their bitter quality, could we but believe crosses and afflictions *work out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory?*

"I feel (she says) I drink of CHRIST's suffering cup. Glory be to him for counting me worthy to be a partaker of his sufferings, as one of his members; it makes me love him the more, trusting, if I am a companion with him in pain, I shall also be a partaker with him in glory. There is a sweetness in suffering I never felt before."

Some part of the Sabbath-day she devoted to instructing a few children in the principles of the Christian religion. It is exceedingly difficult to fix any sense of the evil of sin, or the fear of God, on the minds of children; to open the eyes of the blind, and turn even children from darkness to light.

In the midst of persons who savour of nothing but the things of the world, it is truly animating to find a follower of CHRIST saying, "I feel my life hid with CHRIST in GOD; and when CHRIST, who is my life, shall appear, I shall appear with him in glory."

In the Christian warfare, all our graces are sometimes exercised at once, and at others separately. Previous to sharp and close trials, an increase of love is given as a cordial to sustain the cross, and not unfrequently after the storm is over, yet only *just* sufficient strength to bear up in the midst of the conflict; but in this let us hope; for as the LORD knoweth *how*, so also does he know *when* to deliver the godly out of temptation.

Jan. 23. "The will of GOD is more pleasing to me than my daily food. At times I am strongly tempted to contract the profitable exercise of closet devotion. Rising at five in the morning is a painful task to nature; but I remember, when this day of painful trial is past, there is an eternal rest reserved for the children of GOD."

Trials from professors are very painful, yet frequently rendered profitable, by removing us from the precarious trust on an arm of flesh, to lean on the all-sufficient arm of an omnipotent GOD: yet I love a friend; a *Christian friend* I deem a valuable acquisition.

"Friendship! 'Tis the link that binds,
 "Unites, and forms the harmony of minds,
 "Makes them with sympathising raptures glow,
 "Or move like answ'ring unisons in woe."

Feb. 11. A tree that stands a strong tempest, and the Christian that endures temptation, are likely to be established! How comfortable to a pious mind, constantly to feel with our friend, "I am content with the approbation of God alone; no anxious cares expose my breast.

"I live to-day, and take no painful care for to-morrow; God has favoured me with an increase of love.

"Inward and outward exercises make holiness more amiable in my eyes. We are apt, like Peter, to dictate to our Master for crosses and comforts. Our happiness and safety lies in a uniform observance of his revealed will, leaving the time and manner of all the rest to him.

"LORD! help me to bear up under my present trials both in body and mind, and make tribulation more lovely to me; for surely it is the high way of holiness.

"This has been a day of weeping before the LORD, for more faith, having been on the verge of reasoning myself out of confidence and comfort.

"The powers of darkness are unwearied in exercising their wiles in matters of religion, restless to plunder the Christian of God's image. Happy and safe are they that meet these rulers of darkness, not as Ephraim met Israel's foes, and turned back in the day of battle, but as Jehoshaphat: "*We have no might against this great multitude that cometh against us; but our eyes are unto thee, O Lord!*"

How pleasing to find her emerging from this conflict, with advantage to herself, expressing her thank-

fulness for what she had passed through, if it might but be rendered beneficial to others, and for having gained some farther knowledge of her own weakness, Satan's devices, with an additional proof of God's being a very present help in the time of need.

March 3. The shortest and most effectual method of overcoming temptation is prayer and faith; this Miss B. found by happy experience. "I watch for thy coming, O LORD! to confound Satan more and more, for I give myself up to thee: LORD, do thou answer for me, determined, through grace, not to reason with Satan, though in the paths of death I tread."

Having passed through close, strong, and almost uninterrupted conflicts of soul, the LORD at length graciously lifted her head above her enemies, and favoured her with light and joy; on which she thus remarks:

— 5. "My soul is kept in a solid, calm peace, with a mind staid upon the LORD: temptations offer, but they do not distress me; all is serene, and my soul rests in God."

— 27. The not distinguishing between temptation and sin, is to many sincere souls the source of various perplexing and painful reasonings. It was in the cloudy and dark day of sore trial that Satan insinuated a question to raise doubt, "If thou be the Son of God?" No doubt, the time, the manner, as well as the degree of our temptations, are all by the wise permission and disposal of the LORD.

Satan was now permitted to attack her as a roaring lion, and the accuser of the brethren. "The forepart of this day I was tempted to think I had the spirit of a devil, instead of the spirit of CHRIST. When the force of this fiery temptation abated, I was enabled to pray and pour out my complaint to

God, and was comforted. Light and truth disparted the cloud asunder; my soul was invigorated by the reflection that our LORD, when upon earth, was accused with having a devil. O what a severe trial was this to me! but praised be the LORD, my soul is still in peace, and longing for more communion with God."

April 21. "It is a comfort that light is sown for the righteous to discover the snares of the devil. My faith is strengthened to go forward in the midst of pressing temptations, and it is strongly insinuated I have entered into them; but I know it is a temptation. Praised be the LORD for making manifest this device also. "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you," is the same to-day as yesterday."

Miss B.'s views of the Christian temper and spirit were very just, and her heart breathed a wish to blend the sweet and amiable meekness of Jesus with a firmness of mind, not to be moved from the hope of the gospel.

— 23. "I have been preserved happy in the love of God this day:

"Not a cloud doth arise, to darken the skies,

"Or hide for a moment the LORD from my eyes."

"O what a comfort to be closely united to Jesus, my LORD! May I ever be kept humble at his feet! I have no grace in store; I long for a deeper growth in humility, that at length I may obtain a crown of life. I am unworthy of what I feel; but God is love.

— 28. "I am thankful my soul has not been entangled in bondage since I was set at liberty: the glory is only due to God, who hath raised up such a monument of his mercy."

There is nothing that can prevent the followers of CHRIST from glorying in themselves, equal to a proper knowledge of the œconomy of salvation, and realising views of CHRIST by faith. May the following sentiment be engraven, as with the point of a diamond, on every reader's heart.

May 13. She writes, "I have felt such a deep sense of my weakness and unworthiness, that I clearly discover, if I am eternally saved, it must be entirely through what CHRIST has done for me, and the holiness he hath wrought in me, and not for the sake of good works. If it were not for CHRIST, I must eternally perish; but, glory be to him! he is such a Saviour as I need. O for a stronger faith in Jesus! My soul lies humbled at his feet, to think I do him no more worthy service."

Jan. 2, 1772. "The LORD is humbling me; how low wilt thou lay me yet? it is what I have longed and prayed for; O may I not be discouraged when the LORD answers my prayer!

"After speaking freely to a Christian friend of close temptations, I was greatly exercised in mind, and wept much before the LORD. In this trial came very opportunely a letter from my invaluable friend, Molly Rockall, which was a word in season."

The tenderness of Miss B.'s mind manifested itself by a review of her conduct in little matters.

— 4. "Many temptations offered to-day, but I have been assisted to follow the voice of my shepherd. Satan attends me in many duties, frequently tempting me to think I have acted wrong in various concerns of the day; but this I feel, Jesus is with me.

— 25. "I exceedingly rejoice that my sister Nancy has obtained the love that casteth out fear which hath torment. Her very face bespoke her

happiness of mind, and the praises of God. I felt a solid joy rest on my own soul. By the conversation I this day had with my mother, I cannot doubt her enjoying the liberty of the children of God.

July 31. "The beauties of holiness are more than usual open to the eye of faith, after some severe trials. Exercises and temptations are a balance to aspiring thoughts. I love the LORD, from an experimental sense of his love to me.

Aug. 9. "My soul is in peace, but still I long to be filled with Deity. A holy fear is my constant attendant, that temptation may not wound my soul; that I am kept, is by the Almighty Power and goodness of God. I am thankful for a constant conviction that all my salvation from beginning to the end is the free, unmerited gift of God. Repentance, holy mourning, faith in our LORD JESUS CHRIST, grace to seek perfect love, and eternal glory, are all *freely given to us of God*, as the purchase of the blood of CHRIST. I feel a vehement desire to stand, as an iron pillar, strong. Is not this also of the LORD? O may deep humility cover all!

— 14. "This has been a year of instructive experience, which the LORD has mercifully brought me through. It is no less pleasing than profitable to review the merciful dealings of the LORD, in extricating me from many temptations and devices of Satan, and preventing me from falling into his snares. Sweet has been the consolation I have enjoyed in God and his love. Refreshing seasons from the presence of the LORD have greatly encouraged me to urge on my way to the Canaan of everlasting rest. More health of body, peace amongst relations, restoration of religious friends, favour in the sight of the children of God; time fails to recount the mercies of my LORD.

Aug. 23. "Of late, in close exercises, I have been, like some heirs to estates, obliged to prove my title. I adverted to a passage sometime since sealed upon my heart by the Holy Spirit, "*All are yours.*" Now was my heart fully disposed to do or suffer the will of my Heavenly Father. I did not think highly of myself, but humbly of my attainments. As many a good estate has been spent in law, so by reasoning with Satan I might have lost my evidence for glory; but through divine aid was enabled to raise the shield of faith, and repel his fiery darts.

Sept. 9. "I never felt the work of God so deep in my soul as of late. I have now a more general command and easier government of my thoughts, words, and actions. I feel that the least unkind thought pains my soul. Surely the LORD is able to keep that which I have committed unto him. My faith is tried; LORD, undertake for me."

The critical observers in the church of CHRIST are sometimes more liberal in their censures, than zealous to imitate the active spirits of those who are laying out all their strength of body and mind for the glory of God. Miss B. remarks, "This week I have passed through many inward sufferings. O what joy ought it to be to me; for surely if there had been a better way to heaven than suffering, CHRIST would have shewed it by word and example. I do praise him in the trying hour.

— 27. "Satan seems to be not yet without hope, that I shall so love the creature, as in part to decline in love to God; but I have faith to believe the reverse. This day I felt perfect resignation for my future life to be disposed of, as the wisdom of my God sees best, either in a married or a single state; I have no decided choice; to me it does not appear

advisable to shrink from the former, if God can be thereby most glorified.

“Strange fires far from my soul remove;

“My every act, word, thought, be love.”

“In the midst of close and trying temptations, thou, LORD, who knowest all things, knowest that I love thee with all my heart. If it will be for thy glory, and my advantage, I should be sharply assaulted with those hellish darts, Father, thy will be done; but, O LORD! if it be thy will, let this cup pass from me; and what I feel this day, may I feel no more for ever.

“I am now taught, not to depend on any blessings received at any particular time, but to preserve an holy dependence on God for constant supplies of spiritual nourishment. Thus I trust to abide on him, till

“I reach the joys above,

“And taste the pleasures there.”

1773, April 8. Of late the LORD has graciously increased my little stock of love; what was once as a parting stream, is now like a Jordan's flood. I enjoy much greater peace and stronger faith: the light of heaven shines on my path, and I know my works are wrought of God.

“By the warning of the Spirit, and of friends, I am apprehensive of a dangerous snare, though at a distance; but the cry of my soul is, O that I may live before thee, LORD! and let thine arm rule for me.

“O that I may walk with God!

“Jesus, my companion be;

“Lead me to thy blest abode,

“Thro' the fire and thro' the sea.”

"In the midst of much opposition, I find the presence of God supporting me; trials stir me up to frequent fervent prayer, that I may stand unmoved in all the ways of the Lord.

"No earthly charms my soul shall move

"From the blest object of my love."

June 3. "Seven years ago to-day I found peace with God; and, praised be my Divine Preserver, to this time have I enjoyed a constant witness of my acceptance; and my soul still hungers, LORD! for thee. It is a source of inexpressible grief to reflect on the apparent distance of some relations from the life and enjoyment of genuine piety.

Aug. 22. "None but God and myself know what a week of temptations I have passed through. I cannot express the number or strength of Satan's assaults, but still am preserved a monument of God's abundant mercy and saving power.

"Thus tried is every faithful soul,

"As gold and silver tried,

"Purg'd by grief, and purg'd by pain,

"And seven times purified,

"All who stand the fiery test,

"Receive thine image from above,

"Bear the fav'rite name impress,

"The fav'rite name of love."

1774, March 14. "Temptations crowd thick upon me, yet I enjoy an uninterrupted peace. LORD, do I still need such painful monitors to quicken my dullness? I am but a beggar at thy feet, and every moment need thy help.

"When broken spirits dwell in dust,

"The God of grace is nigh."

"In passing through evil and good report, I desire not to be puffed up by the one, nor depressed by the other, while it is written, *"My grace is sufficient for thee."*

"The company of the ungodly is of a leavening nature. I can with ease relinquish their society, and yet by hastily avoiding that contagion, I feel a danger no less fatal, but more delusive, in cleaving to the creature. This makes me cry mightily to the LORD; let all my affections and passions be under thy controul, and all engaged for God.

June 3. "It is now eight years since I first found the favour of God, and have never lost a sense of his love.

"Perhaps it may be something singular, that I am more closely assaulted with temptations under preaching, than at other times; to hear without this interruption would be a pleasure, but submission here is good.

"At present I am saved from an inordinate attachment to persons or things, and desire nothing in competition with the love of God. My soul breathes for a fresh supply of faith and love.

1775, Feb. 17. "My soul was much refreshed in visiting a poor woman, with five small children, and a sixth hourly expected; and yet her only attendant in this situation was her affectionate husband, whose small earnings were the support of the whole family. I found the woman happy and composed in her mind, willing to live or die. Oh! what can equal the support which religion gives to the soul in an hour of affliction?"

The grace of God gives a singularly tender conscience. This faithful recorder of our actions remonstrates for every deviation from truth. Miss B. was made to feel keenly for a prevaricating word.

"I was (says she) deeply humbled before the Lord for it; the Lord was gracious in healing my afflicted mind; may patience have its perfect work!"

They who follow CHRIST shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life. By the happy experience of this truth, Miss B. became well skilled in the devices of Satan, and could distinguish between being tempted, and yielding to the temptation.

March 4. "By a train of thoughts this morning, which tended to pride, if indulged, I was led to cry earnestly to the Lord for deeper humility, and found an encouraging answer. Amidst frequent attacks from my unwearied foes, the Lord's Spirit lifted up a standard, and their proud waves were stayed. The praise is only due to my ever-faithful Preserver, who keeps me all his own; although there is no discharge from this war of temptation whilst here below.

Feb. 8. "After praying with some children, which I meet every Sabbath-day, to instruct in the principles of Christianity, I was grievously tempted that I had given my heart to the creature; but upon examination, when or in what? I found it proceeded from the father of lies. My desires are unto God, to be his only; and, by divine assistance, I feel resolved to believe till rooted in the knowledge and love of God.

Feb. 18. "I have received, I trust, an increase of patience; my soul rests in God. To the end I may improve in his knowledge, I read, write, pray, hear the word preached, converse with the people of God, fast, or use abstinence, together with every prudential help, as channels only, for receiving the grace of God; but private prayer is in general the most strengthening mean of all.

"I rejoice to hear that Molly Rockall's youngest sister has found peace and happiness in God. This is the fifth sister of that family that has been converted to God in less than a year; and one brother-in-law, who is entered into his Master's joy.

May 4. "In the meeting of the children, one about fourteen years of age, said she had found the love of Jesus shed abroad in her heart.

— 24. "Again I find my unwearied adversary striving to make me doubt the existence of a God; but am enabled to hold fast my confidence in the LORD. Were I to reason with that cunning enemy, perplexing thoughts would soon follow.

"In prayer and silent adoration, I with joy worship the three-one JEHOVAH.

June 2. "For nine years past, I have enjoyed much of the life-giving presence of my LORD and Saviour, have found strength proportioned to my day, and still prove suffering faith does brighter grow, as gold when in the furnace tried.

Aug. 31. "My soul is more than ever established on the Rock of Ages. Forgetting those things which are behind, I press forward to obtain all purchased and promised blessings.

Sept. 1. "This evening died Mrs. Love, having enjoyed for several weeks a comfortable sense of God's forgiving love. Patient in suffering, her conversation and countenance were expressive of the tranquil peace her soul possessed, before she entered into the joy of her LORD. This is a second to whom the LORD has made my private conversation profitable: to him alone be all the glory.

— 19. "Temptations fly thick about me as bees, now I am deprived of bodily health; but all my care is cast on God: I could thankfully leave this

dale of woe; nothing shakes my calm, uninterrupted assurance of being with my LORD in glory.

“ I languish and long to be there,
 “ Where JESUS has fix'd his abode,
 “ Oh! when shall we meet in the air,
 “ And fly to the mountain of God!”

Nov. 21. “ Miss Fuller, who was last evening under deep distress of soul, is now happy in the love of JESUS. We all partake the common bliss, and glory to the LORD is given.

Dec. 1. “ Last evening, my sister N——y believed to the salvation of her soul.

1775, March 25. “ I awoke this morning with these words on my mind, *The LORD only is my support*; and they were refreshing to my soul. He appeared ready to help in every time of need. For some time past I have felt a determination to seek comfort *only* in God; and if it were his will I should not be favoured with this, I would seek for grace to be satisfied *in his will*.

Aug. 9. “ I never enjoyed more of the divine presence, nor ever saw myself in greater danger of departing from God. I am all weakness, but my trust is in the arm of JEHOVAH.

1776, Jan. 19. “ Temptations press close and thick upon me, but I feel a secret power to refuse. Guard and defend me, O LORD, that temptations enter not into my heart. Diligence, and active employment in daily concerns, is to me an admirable preservative from many temptations.

Feb. 16. “ Every Friday I set apart as a day of fasting and prayer. This painful task to nature is more than compensated by the divine communications of love to the soul. O transporting thought, to be for ever with the LORD! I long to meditate

more on those divine glories which the soul shall be ravished with to all eternity.

June 3. "I am in much pain of body, my spirits are brought low, and nature recoils at the bitter cup of affliction; yet, though sorrowful, I do rejoice, and adore Infinite Wisdom for all his dispensations, believing that the most painful will work for my good. I long to behold him whom my soul loves, O for near communion with, and conformity to my LORD!

"I think my experience runs like a flow but deepening stream. I want more of that tender love to the weak of CHRIST's flock, that will bear with their infirmities. In a good measure I can say,

"I feel my warmest passions dead

"To all that earth can boast;

"This soul of mine was never made

"For vanity and dust."

July 2. "Upon the strictest examination, I do advance I trust, in the divine life, but feel the need of growing in the *strength of grace*; that neither persons nor things may be able to move me from my centre and rock.

"I truly wish to walk before the LORD in as perfect a manner as it is my privilege, and always to do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

OCT. 1. "Having been much oppressed for two days with successive and various temptations, this afternoon my soul feels like Samson when the cords were broken with which he was bound. It is the LORD that delivers me from surrounding foes.

— 3. "In retirement to-day, I found such nearness to the glorified throng before the throne, as I never before experienced. I long for greater conformity to my LORD in holiness, that I may be capable of fellowship with him in his glory.

Nov. 1. "In a close attack of the enemy to discouragement, faith and reason came to my aid, with a fixed resolution not to yield so long as I can obtain strength to resist. The result of this combat was an increase of divine consolation.

Dec. 17. "It is now nine years since, by divine grace, I was enabled to give my whole heart to the LORD; since which time, Satan, or any intruding idol, has not been permitted to enter. Not unto me, but to JEHOVAH JESUS, be the glory ascribed. It is by grace I am preserved; and every moment, LORD, I need the merit of thy death. I long to increase in all Christian knowledge and virtue.

— 21. "How diversified are Satan's temptations! At one time, a crowd of worldly thoughts would pour in, to create solicitude and anxiety; then, the excellencies and qualifications of persons painted strongly on the imagination, to render them desirable, and intended by Satan to rival the LORD. If these fail, he will reverse his plan, and tempt to discontent and impatience in my present situation or circumstances. What wonder, if a more eligible situation be marked out by the grand deceiver, who availed himself of our LORD's low estate in the wilderness, to present to his mind the kingdoms of the world, and the glories of them. Thus has my soul been exercised for some days past, but the LORD discovers the tempter in his approach; I am preserved watching unto prayer, and Satan is bruised under my feet.

1777, Jan. 1. "The preciousness of faith was this morning realised to my soul. May I be assisted to exercise it constantly for myself and others. I long for a fresh manifestation of the three-one JEHOVAH. In private prayer I have sore conflicts; Satan strives to prevent my pouring out all my complaints to the

LORD ; but vain is the expectation of help from any other. I want renewed visits of divine love. Alas ! what are all external forms without close union with God ? Seek, and ye shall find ; is a fresh spring to my soul.

How trifling are the small differences of opinion which have obtained in the church of CHRIST, to souls who are seeking to be *renewed in righteousness and true holiness* ! “ I this day had sweet fellowship with one whose views can by no means extend so far as the merits and love of CHRIST to all the apostate race of Adam. However, I find fellowship with all those who contend for a new creation.

— 15. “ My soul is led out in earnest prayer in behalf of Mr. B—t—g of this town, lately an attentive hearer at our place of worship. May he be a doer of God’s will, and eternally saved !

March 15. “ I have great heaviness of mind, and oft-fore travel of soul for my brothers and relations. I pour out my heart to God in their behalf ; and long to be more useful in serving my generation according to the will of God.

— 24. “ I am this day forty-three years old : as years increase, may I grow more wise and gracious.

“ Mr. Valton has been an indefatigable minister in this circuit, and rendered useful to many : his instructions in private, as well as public, have been much owned of the LORD.

“ Mrs. Hanks’s pious conversation has been made very useful to me. I have great fellowship with that good woman. She has an enlarged soul to serve the interests of her Lord and Master.

Aug. 7. “ The cheering beams of JESUS’ love, after painful exercises and trials, resemble the shining

sun on the weary traveller after a dark and cloudy day.

Sept. 6. "From exercises for a fortnight past, I have a kind of fever; but in earnest prayer at a throne of grace, the LORD was intreated, and sent me help out of Zion. I can now offer the grateful sacrifice of praise. Where shall I his praise begin?

November 9. "I had this day a most blessed, but indescribable impression on my soul, of the three-one JEHOVAH, all equal in Deity; while these words flowed from my heart, *the LORD, he is the GOD.*

— 12. "I now see the folly of declining the cross in little things: little crosses, when patiently borne, make up in number what they want in weight. I am humbled at my LORD's feet, desiring grace equal to my every future trial.

1778, January 10. "I long for closer communion with CHRIST; with saints on earth, and saints in heaven.

"It is my delight to be diligent in temporal, as well as spiritual matters; serving with careful Martha's hands, but humble Mary's heart.

"The prosperity of Zion lies near my heart: I find great assistance from the LORD, in praying for the increase of Zion's converts, amongst all sects and parties that seek and serve the LORD CHRIST.

March 2. "I have been sorely tempted, to think I shall not enjoy so much of GOD in future life, as in seasons that are past. I doubt not but this device of Satan is intended to weaken my present confidence in GOD, when deprived of public opportunities for waiting on him: this is my cross, not my choice. I make a virtue of necessity, and seize a private moment for recollection and prayer.

"Where can such sweetness dwell,

"As I have found in GOD?"

May 24. "By renouncing all strength and dependence in myself, I find the LORD my wisdom and might. The force of that truth I sensibly feel, *without me ye can do nothing*. All acceptable obedience must flow from a principle of loving faith.

July 11. "I see and feel my calling is, a deeper acquaintance with the GOD of GRACE, that I may stand against future assaults. I long to study the word of GOD, as one searching for hidden treasure.

1779, January 23. "This day my dear mother went to Abraham's bosom, rejoicing in GOD her Saviour, having lived seventy-nine years and some months in this vale of tears. It was an unspeakable consolation to her surviving children, when standing around her bed to hear her utter Jacob's dying confession of faith, *I have waited for thy salvation, O LORD*.

February 18. "The little society in this town, having passed through much persecution, and great interruption in their public devotions, by a Mr. J——'s frequently beating a drum during the whole hour of meeting; providence has at length pointed out a convenient situation for erecting a chapel. Mr. B—t—g, after handsomely subscribing to the building, generously undertook the superintending the whole work, till it was completed. This labour of love will not be unnoticed by the LORD.

April 6. "By weakness of body, my spirits have been much depressed. It was strongly suggested my soul was dead to GOD; but I trusted in HIM who is almighty, and was not confounded.

May 18. "I have been three weeks confined with the small pox. When I first knew it was that disorder, I felt no fear, but rather a joy, in hope it was the Master's call to arise and depart, for ever to be with the LORD! Soon after, I was permitted to

be sorely buffeted by the enemy : in this assault I said, where will this conflict end ; in Heaven, or in Hell ? I felt an unshaken peace in my soul, and the LORD soon appeared in my behalf ; the clouds were scattered, and a delightful joy succeeded the tempest.

June 5. " Although I have no rival of my heart, yet, unless I am kept by the power of the LORD, I shall presently sink down into desiring some person or thing to make me happy. I have frequently found, after solemn dedication of myself to God, strong temptations have followed, to try the sincerity of my love to my LORD. Who can describe the influential power of strong temptation ?

August 22. " I have been closely pressed, by a temptation with which I was exercised eight years ago : where the affections are concerned, it is exceedingly difficult to distinguish whether the temptation be from one's self, or Satan. My prayer is, " LORD, let me see thy will, nor suffer me to take " a step, but for thy glory and my furtherance in " holiness." It is sometimes a difficult point to distinguish between a natural love, and that which is purely spiritual : happy is it for those who can so preserve their nearest attachments, as not to rob the LORD of his glory.

Sept. 12. " Trials and temptations have been the portion of my cup for this week past ; but the joy I have now, in communion with God, more than compensates for all. I am still as poor as a beggar. I love always to come, as a dependent creature, to God's all sufficiency : the most painful trial, I feel from outward occurrences, is, the being slighted by professors ; I want calmness to be joined with courage.

November 11. "The Rev. John Wesley opened our New Chapel, by preaching on, *We preach Christ crucified; unto the Jews a stumbling block, &c. &c.* On this occasion we had a crowded and genteel audience. My heart's desire and prayer to God is, that this neat and convenient house, erected to JEHOVAH's glory, may be an everlasting blessing to the town of Wycomb."

— 15. "Satan, by artful reasonings, would draw a veil of darkness upon my mind, and lead me to question the sincerity of my experience in the work of grace. Thank God, I feel a vigour of spirit to press forward to more of the Divine presence."

December 5. "A letter is come to hand, which informs me of Mr. S. W.-ll's death: a man for whom I had the highest esteem and regard; his public labours and private conversation were rendered exceedingly useful to many, and much owed of God to my furtherance in the divine life. He was near to me as my own soul; but the LORD can preserve in the most painful trials. I have, in the course of my pilgrimage, derived the best experience from the most painful occurrences."

"There is no state of life but needs much grace, and no real happiness but what comes from God. A single life is a self-denying life. One day, meditating on what would constitute a person's happiness that had escaped the incidental allurements of youth, it was powerfully applied to my mind, *the grace of God, and nothing else.* I have ever found it true, JESUS is all and in all to the believing soul; and where HE is, there is no want of comfort; to insure which, we must always have this conviction, *that it is by grace we stand.*"

The sharpest trials are followed with the sweetest tastes of divine consolation. Rest assured, ye heirs of

CHRIST, that however the prospect of your earthly comforts is now eclipsed, or circumscribed, soon, very soon will the bridegroom's voice be heard: Where I am, there my servants shall be, that they may behold my glory.

Dec. 11. "I was to-day as on Pisgah's top, and more than viewed the promised land. Love, divine love, so flamed on the altar of my heart, that not a passion dared to move while thus surrounded with God. Those prospects are truly animating after seasons of sore trial.

1780, April. "In the garden of Gethsemane, as well as on mount Tabor, the disciples of Jesus may say, *it is good for us to be here.*

May 2. "The latter part of last week, I was variously tempted to fear my soul was not in a prosperous state. In this cloudy day, I was for a time utterly at a loss to know whether it was a temptation, or really the case; yet, conscious I had not departed from my God, I refused to relinquish my shield, notwithstanding the discouraging suggestion bore hard against me. In a short time after, the clouds were dispersed, and a cheerful day broke upon my soul. Joy is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.

— 6. "I was called to visit a woman whom the Lord had brought, in the furnace of affliction, to a sense of her sins, and a clear discovery of his pardoning love. She died rejoicing in God her Saviour.

CHRIST's flock is small, compared with the bulk of mankind that know not God; yet even of these, very few, it is to be feared, see and seek fully the good things which God hath prepared for them on this side heaven; such as, communion with the Father and the Son, the Divine Spirit, as a fountain of

living water, the pure love of God, which casts out slavish fear, and the soul kept in perfect peace, by a constant reliance on the Lord for fresh supplies of grace.

Nov. 27. "I have sweet peace, and am warned of approaching danger. May I ever attend my Shepherd's voice, take up my cross, and follow the Lord whithersoever he shall lead. The breathing of my soul is for closer union with my Lord. I feel communion with my Redeemer; yea, at this time, with the three-one JEHOVAH I feel the witness strong and clear, and strength to seek the Lord.

1781, Jan. 2. "It is well when trials and temptations put an edge to our prayers. Keep me from sin, is the ardent desire of my heart. Oh! what is past experience, if God should forsake me! What sin is there that I might not fall into? But my strength is in the mighty God of Jacob, whom I love, and trust with every power of my soul, believing he is preparing me, by painful trials, to bring forth more fruit.

"I have often proved temptations a sign of ensuing comfort.

June 2. "This year my cup has been mixed with many bitters; but now a sense of the divine presence is more than an equivalent for all.

"O Love Divine, how sweet thou art!"

1781, June 21. "All the comforts I have derived from the Rock of my Salvation have been balanced by trials of various kinds. I may truly say, "Oh! to grace how great a debtor!"

Sept. 2. "Sometimes, in an hour when we expect not, the Lord graciously visits his inheritance. In the night season I found as strong a witness as I ever felt, that my heart was all love.

1784, June 7. "If the LORD renders my feeble attempts in any measure useful to his children, or others, I feel a jealous fear lest the least of the praise should attach to dust and ashes, which should alone redound to the LORD. Oh! to be ever kept so as that praise may not elate, or frowns depress my mind.

The apparent reluctance in many professors to attend the means of grace; and the little improvements of others in the divine life, often oppressed her zealous soul. She writes on this occasion:

— 29. "I this morning feel something like the beginnings of a broken heart, on account of some people's slighting the ways of strict holiness. I am weak; LORD, strengthen me. If my LORD would grant me my request, it would be to die, rather than live to see his work decline.

"It is sometimes truly seasonable to have recourse to a social Christian friend; but JESUS is a friend possessed of strength and wisdom,

"To whom I can impart

"The every joy and sorrow of my heart."

No trial she ever named, in all her Diary, went so near her heart, as to be lightly esteemed by the people of GOD.

1785, January 4. "Near twenty years since I first heard the Methodist preaching. Innumerable are the blessings I have received from a bountiful GOD. The trials and temptations he hath preserved me in, and brought me through, I cannot recount, but they are all numbered, and past. Hitherto the LORD hath been my help, and the crowning grace of all is, a sweet taste of his love.

March 5. "The LORD graciously disposes my heart with strong desire, whereunto I have attained, to hold fast, nor walk in a lower path than my heavenly LORD commands. I feel the need of wisdom, and the Spirit's constant aid, that I may not be weakened by slow degrees. Thou mighty preserver of them that trust in thee, make bare thine arm, O my God! and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies."

The following is a rare appeal, yet her uniform piety leaves no doubt of its sincerity: "I call to witness, ye heavens and earth, and all the heavenly hosts, if death be not preferable to life, if life be attended with less of the divine presence. Grief and holy sorrow are ever attendant on the thought of losing, in the smallest degree, the favour of God; but myself I cannot save, in whole or in part; it is the Great JEHOVAH that must save. I trust in him; and know in whom trust.

June 3. "Twenty years since I found peace in the favour of God. Ever since that time, through divine mercy and grace, I have been enabled to preserve a good conscience, and in some degree have walked with God. To him alone be all the glory, for his own right hand hath wrought the work.

"Excluded is my every boast,

"My glory swallowed up in shame."

July 15. "After a pleasant and profitable interview with a few of God's children, I met with a sharp and unexpected trial; but was enabled, in silence, to sustain it. LORD, do I need such painful draughts still, to keep my heart with thee?

July 28. "The LORD is my comfort and stay, and keeps me from expecting happiness in any thing beneath himself.

Nov. 18. "A succession of trials and comforts have been the portion of my cup since I wrote last. Yesterday my heart was overwhelmed with grief, lest our unfaithfulness, as a Society, should provoke the LORD to remove from us the ark of his presence.

1786, Feb. 25. "This day I attended the remains of that faithful and zealous friend to truth, Thomas Humphries, who for many years was an ornament to the gospel, and the first person that received the Methodist preachers in Wycomb. He stood by the pious Mr. Thomas Walsli, amidst a shower of stones, whilst he was proclaiming the glad tidings of salvation to a part of the people in that town. His last moments were triumphant. He spoke with the warmest animation of the love of CHRIST to him, and that his departure hence would be to dwell with angels. His last words were, "Dear LORD, I am coming."

June 27. "After a long and great conflict with the powers of darkness, I now enjoy a gracious deliverance, with a clear evidence of the divine presence resting on my soul.

July 13. "Yesterday I felt something, I think, of that strength of soul which the martyrs felt, when suffering in a righteous cause. Grace, almighty grace alone, can conquer the powers of hell, sustain in domestic trials, and subject the human heart to the righteous laws of JEHOVAH.

1787, Jan. 18. "Whilst we are in the body, life is a warfare. If Satan cannot destroy, he will distress the children of God. A few days ago, I was so violently assaulted by the powers of darkness, that

I felt just saved from entering into the temptation, only. Since then I have reason to believe the work of grace is deepening in my soul.

April 10. "Of late I have been favoured with much divine consolation; yea, durable riches and righteousness; and that word was sweetly applied, *In righteousness shalt thou be established.*

July 12. "The season of temptation and trial is a sifting-time; but this is my comfort, CHRIST prays for me; the love of GOD refreshes body and mind.

Pure benevolence naturally springs from the love of GOD; the wicked I love with tender pity, but the righteous with a love of friendship. Wisdom and grace are necessary to regulate our conduct with professors, as well as prophane persons.

1788, April 4. "Confinement by sickness is a seasonable opportunity for improvement in patience and resignation. The love of GOD is a sweet support in pain. I could, but I dare not, invite death to do his office. Oh! how pleasant it is to say, *Father, thy will be done!* I long to enjoy the fulness of GOD. I am happy in the comfort of hope, and a blessed assurance of a joyful immortality, when this poor life is ended. I long to go home like a ship richly laden.

June 1. My late illness terminated in a dropsy. It was only by the divine mercy and aid I have survived the painful operation of extracting *fourteen quarts of water!* I was graciously preserved in peace and patience.

"O that my remnant of days

"May be spent to his praise,

"Who died the whole world to redeem."

Oct. 23. "By divine assistance, I have thus far held on my way to mount Zion. The path I am now

called to walk in is humbling to human nature, yet rendered pleasant by this consideration, it is a royal road, having been travelled before by the King of Kings, and his most renowned followers. My prayer ascends for grace to follow his meek example up to glory.

“ It is a blessing to be patient in time of sickness; but I long to rejoice and praise the LORD; yea, my soul on this occasion would rise to the highest attainment of Christian holiness.

Dec. 31. “ Twenty-one years since, I gave all my heart to GOD. I bless his holy name, I am happy in divine love, and still my heart is all the LORD’s. May I live to him who died for me, and die to live with him who lives for evermore.

1789, Jan. 30. “ Contentment under the pressure of sickness is an inexpressible blessing from the LORD. My soul says, either sickness or health; which my LORD chooses, since I am blessed with his love, and resigned to unerring wisdom.

“ Deprived of public ordinances, my gracious LORD visits me in my chamber.

April 5. “ I long for the courts of the LORD, to worship with his people. I want an increase of the Spirit, and power of prayer. I wait at the LORD’s feet.

— 12. “ If, in this state of things, difficulties and trials, temptations and afflictions, conduce to a nearer conformity to my suffering LORD, most gladly then will I glory in mine infirmities, that the power of CHRIST may rest upon me.

— 26. “ By reason of continued illness, and long confinement, my adversary bears hard upon my patience; but the LORD is gracious in sustaining me under my afflictions. I do not repine, nor by anxiety

anticipate what is to come. I long for closer communion. When shall my spirit break through the clay tenement, and be with Jesus? But, stop! my soul, thou must wait the Lord's time.

June 1. "In the night I found myself very ill, and thought there was little probability of a recovery. I was immediately comforted with these words, "Tho' after my skin, worms destroy this body, yet "in my flesh shall I see God." From a prospect of the resurrection, a delightful hope sprung up in my soul.

" Then let this feeble body fail,
 " And let it faint and die,
 " My soul shall quit this mournful vale,
 " And soar to worlds on high;
 " Shall join the disembodied saints,
 " And find its long-sought rest,
 " That only bliss for which it pants,
 " In the Redeemer's breast."

Aug. 11. "I enjoy a calm peace, and a happy assurance that my ways please the Lord.

— 26. "It is now thought adviseable to submit to a second operation for my dropical complaint. On this solemn occasion my mind is given to much prayer. I have no painful dread respecting the approaching trial. The Lord cheers my soul, and bears me up with his loving presence. All glory be to him who does all things well.

Sept. 6. "The operation is now over, and I am still waiting until my change shall come. I have no fear of death. I search for his sting, and find he has left it in the cross on which his master died. I then demand, Death, where is thy sting? and where thy victory, boasting grave?

"The prospect is now clear; and the brightening

view of glory makes me wish for a voice to resound from pole to pole the praises of my LORD.

"While Jesus' blood through earth and skies,
"Mercy, free boundless mercy, cries."

Notwithstanding these delightful foretastes of heaven's joys, Miss B. found the necessity of faith and hope, while detained in a weak body, under a weight of afflictions, which no doubt to many would appear a living sorrow, but for her, instrumentally, wrought a *far more exceeding and an eternal weight of glory.*

Sept. 27. "Since I wrote last, for the most part of my time, I have been wading in deep waters of affliction; but in, and through all, I felt my anchor was cast within the vail. I still enjoy that *faith which is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen.* I am at present considerably refreshed by a small alleviation of my bodily complaint.

1790, Jan. 4. "For two days past, I have been confined to my room; the clay tenement is dropping, but my soul is in peace, and longing to be gone. Oh! when will the happy moment arrive that my spirit shall wing its way to the celestial mansions.

Sunday, Jan. 24. "My disorder daily increases, but so much the more does my faith increase. All glory to the LORD.

"Tuesday last, I felt my soul on the wing to be gone. I was in hopes of being soon loosed from my prison of clay. Oh! what a mercy to be thus kept by the mighty power of GOD! I bless him for the full assurance of being with him in glory. I am abased before him, by a view of the poverty of my services, and the riches of his mercy. O for a near

approach to the divine throne ! I feel much of the spirit of adoration. The words of the poet were sweet, and in a far deeper sense than I could ever utter before :

"THEE we adore, ETERNAL NAME!"

1791, Jan. 16. "I am yet the LORD's prisoner, but my soul still hungers and thirsts after righteousness. Two nights ago I felt much of the divine presence shine on my soul, and could say,

"I thank thee, uncreated Sun,

"That thy bright beams on me have shin'd;

"I thank thee, whose enlivening voice

"Bids my freed heart in thee rejoice."

"From day to day I feel the liberty CHRIST hath purchased for his people. He hath fulfilled his promise, *My presence shall go with thee*;

About a month before the Reverend Mr. Wesley's death, Miss Ball received the following lines from him :

"DEAR SISTER,

"You are well nigh worn out in a good cause ;
 "yet a little longer, and pain is no more. Look
 "up, my dear friend, the prize is before us ; we
 "are on the point of meeting to part no more. In
 "time and eternity you will be united with

"Your ever affectionate Brother,

"J. W."

Oct. 9. "My disorder lies heavy upon me, and the springs of animal powers move very slowly ; but a fresh spring of life in my soul is as a reviving cor-

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dial. More of this, O my God! in thy tender mercies give, that I may rejoice in thy will. Good is the Lord, in preserving me from sinking in deep waters.

1792, Jan. 15. "The Lord has permitted me to drag a weak body over the threshold of another year, and still the tottering house is propped. My soul is kept in second life.

May 1. "By a convulsive fit a few days ago, I was deprived of speech, but preserved happy in my soul; and in two days my speech returned. I hope for greater things than I have yet experienced, to be wrought in me by the presence of the Lord.

— 6. "The love of God has been renewed to my soul every morning since I wrote last; and the prospect still opens. The nearer I approach, brighter and still brighter views I have of eternal glory.

— 9. "The following words were—ately applied with much power to my heart: *For sake me not when my strength faileth.*

"Through labour exhausted, and pain,
 "Will Christ from his servant depart?
 "Or with me in weakness remain,
 "The strength and the joy of my heart?
 "His power I in weakness shall prove,
 "Confiding in Jesus's name,
 "The God of unchangeable love,
 "For ever and ever the same."

May 26. "The Lord has dealt bountifully with his servant since the above was written. I am divinely assisted, and drawn out to say, "Bold to take up, firm to sustain, the consecrated cross."

June 24. "The Lord has strengthened me a little. I have the use of my hand again, which I had lost for a week. I feel much thankfulness to God for

this and the many mercies I enjoy ; but above all, for that permanent peace of soul which I possess from day to day, and a sure trust, that when this poor life shall end, I shall be for ever with the LORD.

July 15. "Blessed be my gracious preserver ; he accomplishes his word, wherein he hath caused me to hope, by keeping me in perfect peace, with a mind resting on JEHOVAH. I am very low, but quite resigned to the LORD. *O the sweetness of ascribing all glory to the LORD !*"

These were the last words she ever wrote in her Diary. Her bodily strength now visibly declined apace, yet

" Her mind was tranquil and serene,
 " No terrors in her looks were seen ;
 " A Saviour's smiles dispell'd the gloom,
 " And smooth'd her passage to the tomb."

Her sister, Miss Nancy Ball, gives the following account of her end. " In conversation, I was naming the various disorders by which many were hurried out of the world ; she replied, *Affure yourselves, when I am gone, my soul will be happy.*

Aug. 12. " I have lately (she said to her sister) read over the prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah ; but never before saw them in so clear a light as they now appear, both as they relate to other historical parts of the Bible, and also their accomplishment in the New Testament."

— 13. My dear sister was exceedingly ill ; but by reason of the extreme heat of the weather, she was obliged to rise earlier than usual. In the afternoon she was in much pain, and requested to be laid down. Before we could get her up stairs, she faint-

ed. We put her to bed as soon as possible. She then, with a faltering voice, repeated the following lines:

"O that I might at once go up,
"No more on this side Jordan stop,
"But now the land possess."

I asked, 'If she thought death was near? She replied, she could not tell; but wished he would strike his dart. Then she said, 'I shall be with JESUS, ABRAHAM, ISAAC, and JACOB, and all the good people of whom I have read.'

A friend from London came to see her, to whom she said, 'The LORD has been with me in my affliction, and he keeps my soul in perfect peace. She slumbered a great part of that day. On being asked, Are you happy? she replied, 'Yes, the LORD is with me; and I have no doubt but he will be with me in the dark valley and shadow of death; a shadow cannot hurt.'

Aug. 16, 1792. Between ten and eleven o'clock she was seized with great pain of body, which was attended with convulsions. These lasted but a short time. Five minutes after eleven o'clock, the LORD graciously released her from the body of clay, and admitted her happy, triumphant spirit to be for ever with himself, according to his gracious promise, *Where I am there my servants shall be, that they may behold my glory.*

Thus lived, and thus died, Miss Hannah Ball, in the 59th year of her age; as exemplary a pattern of all Christian holiness, in *doctrine, experience, and practice*, as perhaps any of her contemporaries. She not only possessed a sound judgment of the doctrines, but uniformly manifested the most rigid observance of all

the precepts of the gospel It was her invariable maxim, 'The copy ought to come as near the original as possible.'

She wrought out her salvation with fear and trembling; yet only expected eternal glory through the blood of CHRIST, being sanctified by grace, and made meet for the inheritance of the saints in light.

May all who read these Memoirs, live as exemplary, and die as happy, as the subject of them; and may my last end be like her's.

J. COLE.

BRISTOL,
March 12, 1796.

N. B. The Reader is requested to notice, that Miss Ball had mentioned in her accounts of her going to live with her brother, in a part of her writings where she kept no regular diary; which caused the date of 1769 (the time of her removal) to precede that of 1762, the time of her conversion to God.

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